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14 October 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

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Iraq: Former Deputy Prime Minister Arif's departure from Baghdad for his post as ambassador to Bonn indicates that his pro-UAR faction has bowed for the time being to the pressures exerted by the faction of Premier Qasim. The regime again sought to maintain an appearance of unity by giving Arif a "warm" official send-off, but further political fissures may well appear in the near future.

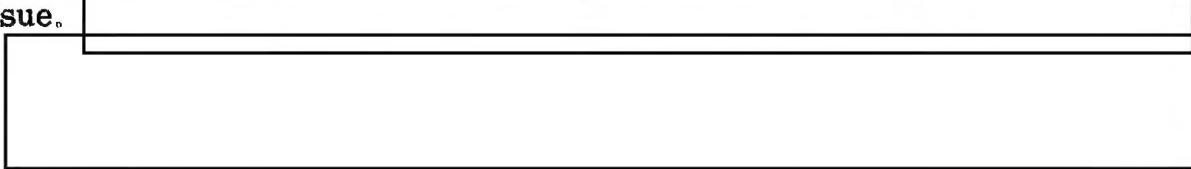
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Afghanistan: The Afghan Government apparently welcomes the new regime in Pakistan and hopes to secure the latter's cooperation in settling the Pushtoonistan dispute. Foreign Minister Naim has canceled his visit to Peiping, scheduled for 16 October, and apparently intends to press for a degree of autonomy for the "Pushtoon" tribal area when Pakistan's constitution is rewritten.

*Laos: The government has won a procedural vote in the National Assembly, thus averting a vote on a motion of no confidence over monetary reform. This appears to strengthen the cabinet's chance of survival should a similar motion be introduced by the opposition in the ensuing debate on the budget issue.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Kabul Apparently Welcomes New Regime in Pakistan

The Afghan Government apparently welcomes the new regime in Pakistan and hopes to secure the latter's cooperation in settling the Pushtoonistan dispute. The take-over in Pakistan by President Mirza and army leader Ayub has been factually reported in the Kabul press, and Afghan Foreign Minister Naim and Deputy Foreign Minister Suleiman have commented privately that a stronger government in Pakistan may assist the settlement of differences between the two countries.

Naim has canceled his trip to Karachi, Peiping, Tokyo, and New York, scheduled to begin on 16 October, and apparently intends to press Karachi to grant a degree of autonomy to the "Pushtoon" tribal area when Pakistan's constitution is rewritten. Refusing to risk antagonizing the new regime in Karachi, Naim specifically denied to Pakistani Ambassador Khattak that he was canceling a visit to Pakistan because of the arrest on 11 October of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the principal Pushtoon leader in Pakistan. On the contrary, he asked Khattak to go to Karachi and explain Afghanistan's "friendship" for Pakistan and the importance of using the opportunity, presumably the framing of a new constitution, to settle the Pushtoonistan dispute.

Mirza and Ayub, who is the administrator of martial law, want to establish a strong central government, but they may be prepared to restore the old West Pakistan provinces, in view of the opposition to the unified province established in 1955. Such a reorganization would presumably include a state corresponding to the old Northwest Frontier Province, so that the Pushtoon tribal area would have some degree of the autonomy Afghanistan is urging.

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